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Great Words of a Great American

A Study of Some of the Important Sayings of Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln

But FEW men in a generation succeed in leaving an impress upon their times which survives them. The few achieve such and retiber by what they have done, or by what they have said, and retiber by what they have done, or by what they have said, and retiber by what they have done, or by what they have said, and they have said, and they have they are succeed to the said. Ilamilton and Jefferson owe their place more generally to what they said, rather than anything which either did. Webster, Clay and Calhoun, belong in the same classification. But Lincoln, more than any man of his generation, and the first of the said and did, but primarily for what the said which was a said of copious correspondence, which took up unch of his time. While he was a good letter-writer his expositions of theories were few. His public addresses were also few. Onlyide of his highest grant and seeks, his amount messages and his Farewell of his inguisted service in the French and Indian Work of the said which was a constitution of the first Preciation of the constitutional Convention, and perhaps still more distinguished as the first Preciaded of the young Republic m the inanguration of the American grant of the content which his efforts had so great part in exadisting of the country which his efforts had so great part in exadisting. of the country which his efforts had so great part in establishing.

Words More Than Deeds Give Lincoln Place

WITH Lincoln it is less his deeds, and more his words, which have given him his place. This is not in disparagement of his achievements for they were superior. The growth of popular to the proposed of the deed of the superior of the proposed the day of the pumphlet him the state possible of political divery. The western construction of the pumphlet him the state possible of political divery. The western country furnished the appropriate field for such cultivation. The unfortunate circumstance of the existence of the institution of slavery as a sectional institution was the chies occasion for the development of a poculiar talent. The semi-moral character added a strength to both sides of the issne. Ten years debating society, in which the miss was the whole land was but a cheating society, in which the miss was the whole land was but a febating society, in which the miss was the word from the second of the contest ripened. It reached its clima, in 1858 when a series of seven joint debates were arranged between Lincoln and Douglast Up to this time Lincoln's ability was Hitle known. His speech of acceptange of the candidacy for the senatorship in the preceding fune revealed a rare a latent, and singled him out as a man capable of putting in brief compass epoch-making theories. When also are a state and half free, he had stripped the permanently endure half show and the state of the senatorship in the proposed of the candidacy of the senatorship in the proposed in the same year when he entire the short of the senatorship in the proposed of putting in brief compass epoch-making theories. When the present his proposed in the same year when he make the public that it at once was taken up and passed from his to his powers of Incid statement were equally revealed. He proponded his questions is such a manner that he answer must commit its powers of lined statement were equally revealed. He propond

Condensed Speech Illustrated in His Cooper Union Address

Condensed Speech Illustrated in His Cooper Union Address
THERE is no better illustration of this than given by his speech
in Cooper Union, New York, in 1859. The circumstances of
the occasion gravely embarased him at first, but he soon regained
his accustomed confidence in himself to present his contention,
and delivered a speech which is not only a monment to his
talcuts but is a splendid tribute to the language in which it was
devoted of the settence. As an example dictoric, it appeals to the
devoted of the settence. As an example of the content of the settence once lucid and powerful. This entire speech stands out as a rare
production. Parts of it are as perfect as the master could make it.
When his fairshed there was no confusion emanating from ambignity of expression. The issue was clarified. Here was no
room for the indifferent. "If slavery is right, all words, acts,
silenced and swept away. If it is right we cannot justly insist upon its extension—its enlargement. All they ask they could readily grant if we thought slavery right; all we ask they could as
readily grant if finest thought it wrong. Their thinking it right,
and our thinking it wrong, is the precise fact upon which depends
to blause for desiring its full recognition, as being right; had
thinking it wrong as we do, can we yield to them? Can we cast
our votes with their view and against our own?" No words could
express the issue in clearer terms.
When it became his duty to take the ostit to enforce the laws of
the Union, he delivered an address which will always be resorted
the constitution. He declared, THERE is no better illustration of this than given by his speech











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"The union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied if uot expressed in the fundamental law of all National Governments, it is safe to assert that no government proper ever hal a provision in its organic law for its own termination. If the United States be not a government proper, but no nesociation of States in the nature of a contract merely, can it as a contract be peaceably minusle by less than all the parties who made it? One party to a contract may violate it, but does it not require all to lawfully received ut?" With this view of the Union he hurled against the efforts of the Southern Confederacy the mighty armies of the Nation. Nation.

The Rare Words of His Inaugural Journey

The Rare Words of His Inaugural Journey

SOME of the rarest words of this reunrichable mun were uttered on his way from Springfeld to Washington. On taking his beautiful to Washington. He may be well as the word of the word o

every line.

At Independence Hall in Philadelphia he inquired what principle had so long held the States together, and declared it was "that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but, I hope to the world, for all future time. It was that principle which give promise in due time that the weight world be lifted from the state of the people which give the second point that basis he would rather be assassinated upon the spot than to surrender it.

His Outbursts of Poetry in Prose

AT TIMES his genin, would break out in strains of poetry, Always in proce form, but frequently in poetic taste. Note these words from his first inavagend. "I'l and lold to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our houds of affection. The mystic cords of memory, stretching from every battle over this broad houd will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." nature.

Or this from the second isangural: "Fondly do we hope, fer-vently do we pray, that this mighty scoarge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of uvrequited toil shall be sunk, and nutil every drop of blood drawn by the oil shall be sunk, and nutil every drop of blood drawn by the three thousand years ago, still it must be said. The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous siltogether. With malice toward none; with charity for all; with framess in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for its videon; the present some gourselves, and with all nations." Or this which is upout the lips of two generations:

generations:

"The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for its, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfaished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for its to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before ns, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they go that these dead shall not have died in value, that these dead shall not have died in value, that this matter, water God, shall have a new

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birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

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M EASURED by the highest studdards, this little speech delivered at the dedication of the national centetry at Gettysburg, is the most remarkable short speech in the English language.

Perhaps the highest note of pathos ever reached by him was renched in his letter written to Mrs. Bixby of Boston:

DEAR MADAM :-

I have been shown in the files of the War Department of the Adphtant-General of Massachusetts that you are the moditer of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and furtiless must be really of an extra constant of the file of the which should attempt to begular firm which is so overwhelming. But I cannot refraint from tembering you the consolation that may be from in the thanks of the Republic they died to save.

I pray that our Heavestly Futher may I pray that our Heavestly become and leave you only the clinical and leave you only the clinical the solemular or you file loved and lost, and the solemul pride that must be yours to have Inid so costly a serifice upon the altar of free-I have been shown in the files of the

costly a sacrifice upon the altar of free

Yours, very sincerely and respectfully, ABRAHAM LINCOLN

His superior wilder in the use of English has always and the committee of English has always and the use of English has always and the committee of the committ His superior ability in the use of English has always been a connidrum.

A Sentence Would Neutralize the Force of a Whole Argument

of a Whole Argument

TO CRITICS of his reconstruction
policy in Louisiana, he said, "Concede that the new government of
Louisiana is only to what it should be as
the egg is to the fowl, we shall sooner
the same of the training of the same of the he sentralized the force of an argument that they have reservations made at once for the amount desired, which will give scheme of Doughas as Spanter Sover reignly, was a stoke from which the This rate of the West New rather than the Committee of the support of the West New rather than the Committee of the Commit

were used words whose meaning he did not fully understand, to turn it over in his mind until he had its meaning, when he put it in his own words, such words as would be used by the fellows out upon

One of the greatest contributions made One of the greatest contributions made by this remarkable must is his choste English. His small word, and short sentence are a heritage to the boys and girls of the land. Nothing hetter conditions to the American yould in these February days when we contemplate the secrets of two great Americans, indeed the two greatest, than a frequent reading of some of the rare passages in the public atterances of this truest American.

Lincolnian

No man is good enough to our another men

Never swap horses in the middle of the God must have loved the common

For mins lave loved the common people. He made so many of them.

You can fool some of the people all the time, all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people

In the natural right to eat the bread he earns with his own hands without asking

leave of any one else, any man is my equal, and the equal of all others. Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.

I have got more pegs than there are holes to put them in.

O Captain! My Captain!

O Captain! My Captain! Our fearful trip The ship has weathered every rack, the

prize we sought is won.
The port is near, the hells I hear the people all exulting.
While follow eyes the steady keel the vessel grim and daring.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are

any captain does not answer, its this are pale and still.

My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse or will.

The ship is anchored safe and sound, its

voyage closed and done,
From fearful trip the victor ship comes
in with object won;

Exult, O shores, and ring, O bells! But I, with mournful fread, Walk the deck my Captain lies, Fallen cold and dead,

-Walt Whitman

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How to Make Money

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I was a proper to the control of the contro

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